

DUTY FIRST!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Unofficial 1st Infantry Division Magazine of Soldiers and Families | www.riley.army.mil | facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

ON THE GO

No challenge too great as 1st ID trains for duties home & abroad



- 1ID activates UAS company
- Tour the First Couple's home

THE BIG RED ONE CREED

TEAMWORK is the foundation of the Big Red One. I shall never fail my team, for I maintain the standard. My conduct and self-discipline set the example for others to follow.

HONOR is what I stand for—an American Soldier on duty for my country. My loyalty is intense. I display care for my fellow Soldiers and my chain of command through courage, respect, integrity and compassion.

I have learned to **ENDURE**, to thrive in adversity. The harsh reality of combat gives me the enthusiasm for realistic training. I am physically and mentally strong to meet the demanding situations my unit encounters.

We are one in the Big Red One. Our **BROTHERHOOD** gives us strength to fight on to any objective and accomplish the mission as our veterans have done before us. I live the legacy of my division.

READINESS is my priority. To be ready for any mission, anytime, anywhere. My business is first-class training and living high standards of care and equipment, weaponry and tactical and technical competence.

My **ORGANIZATION** is my strength. The BRO is bigger than any one individual. It gives me purpose, self-confidence, competitive spirit, intestinal fortitude and the desire to fight with all my heart.



Duty **1** First!

No Mission too Difficult. No Sacrifice too Great.

Comings, Goings, Training | www.riley.army.mil

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COVER: Sgt. 1st Class Juan Torres gets a last-minute hug from his son, Daniel, 21 months, during predeployment activities April 10. Torres was one of more than 70 Soldiers from the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, who departed Fort Riley on April 10 for a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

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ABOVE: A 2nd HBCT Soldier clears the area around him before firing his AT4 on March 29 during the “Dagger” Brigade’s Expert Infantryman Badge testing. More than 280 “Dagger” Brigade Soldiers participated in the weeklong set of tests that challenged the Soldiers to showcase their knowledge of everything from map reading to movement under fire. At the end of the testing, 94 Soldiers earned the EIB. **BOTTOM:** Col. Paul Calvert, then commander, 2nd HBCT, presents one of his “Dagger” Brigade Soldiers the Expert Infantryman Badge on March 30.

‘Pride of the Infantry’

‘Dagger’ Brigade Soldiers showcase skills during EIB testing

STORY & PHOTOS BY MOLLIE MILLER
DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Soldiers with the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division showed the world why their division is the “pride of the Infantry” March 26 to 30 during the “Dagger” Brigade’s Expert Infantryman Badge testing.



“For the Soldier who ... gets their EIB, it is a great accomplishment. (The EIB) is the mark of a professional Soldier and a professional infantryman.”

—Lt. Col. John Cross, commander,
1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd HBCT

When the weeklong set of tests began March 26, more than 280 Soldiers stood ready to be challenged in everything from first aid to map reading to movement under fire. When testing ended March 30, just 94 remained to receive their EIB.

About 33 percent of the Dagger Brigade Soldiers who started the testing earned the right to wear the bright blue EIB. Armywide, the percentage of Soldiers who earn the badge during testing averages only about 10 percent.

“For the Soldier who ... gets their EIB, it is a great accomplishment,” said Lt. Col. John Cross, commander, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd HBCT. “(The EIB) is the mark of a professional Soldier and a professional infantryman.”

Established in 1943, the EIB is an Army badge that indicates the wearer has mastered the individual skills an infantryman must possess to survive in a battlefield environment. First Sgt. Gary Stout, noncommissioned officer in charge of the traffic control point lane, said the skills Soldiers are required to possess in order to pass the testing lanes are the same skills they must possess to succeed in combat.

“These tests are designed to really challenge the Soldiers so that at the end, if they do get awarded the badge, there is a huge sense of accomplishment,” he said. “Not everyone is going to be an expert in the infantry field and get their EIB.”

Cross, who earned his EIB in 1995, said the badge is certainly “not a given.” One Soldier who participated in the testing who wasn’t certain if he would ever possess the EIB was Sgt. Kevin Erickson. Erickson, who said he “failed miserably” during his first round of testing eight years ago, said he was more prepared mentally and physically for the very demanding week and was happy to finally pin the badge to his uniform.

“I’m glad I didn’t have to wait for a third time,” he said. 



Spc. Cole Marr reviews an operational order March 29 during the fourth day of the 2nd HBCT’s Expert Infantryman Badge testing.



Soldiers with the 2nd HBCT reset the traffic control point lane during the brigade’s Expert Infantryman Badge testing March 26.



Several dozen of the Army's newest M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles travel Fort Riley roads on their way to 2nd HBCT motor pools April 10. The Bradley Fighting Vehicles arrived at Fort Riley on April 9 via railcar from Fort Hood, Texas. The new Bradleys provide infantry squads better situational awareness via a new video monitor in the troop carrying compartment. Additionally, an improved independent thermal viewer has increased the capability of the Bradley crews. Soldiers with the 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., and 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., will begin training on them later this month. More M2A3 Bradleys are scheduled to arrive at Fort Riley later this year to update the 1st HBCT's fleet.

Story & photos by Mollie Miller | Duty First! Magazine

'Dagger' Brigade updates vehicle fleet

Leading the charge

The Army's newest versions of two vehicles that have kept America's fighting men and women safe for more than a quarter of a century have arrived in the Central Flint Hills Region.

About 200 M1A2 SEP V2 Abrams Tanks and M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles were delivered to the Soldiers with the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, earlier this month. The new equipment features the Army's latest round of updates that allow operators better situational awareness and superior optics over previous versions.

"The greatest thing about the new vehicles is that the entire brigade will have the newest equipment the Army has to offer," said Lt. Col. John Cross, commander, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd HBCT. "With our new fleet, the 'Dagger' Brigade will be equipped to be the most lethal maneuver brigade in the U.S. Army."

Originally designed to transport infantry troops while providing cover fire to suppress the enemy, the Bradley has evolved to provide infantry squads better situational awareness via a new video monitor in the troop carrying compartment. Additionally, an improved independent thermal

viewer has increased the capability of the Bradley crews.

Like the upgrades to the Bradley, the new features on the Abrams include a variety of changes that increase the lethality and protective capabilities of the tank. Lt. Col. Michael Henderson, commander, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, said the upgrades on the new Abrams make the M1A2 SEP V2 the most impressive tank he has ever seen.

"The M1A2 SEP V2 allows us to identify and destroy enemy targets in excess of 4,000 meters," he said. "The new (Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station) allows the tank commander to engage targets with a stabilized system without exposing himself to enemy fire—a huge improvement over previous versions, where the tank commander had to fire from outside the commander's hatch."

Although Henderson praised all the Abrams upgrades, there was one update he was particularly excited about—the fire control system.

"The optics (system) has finally caught up with the ammunition," he said. "The ammunition has always been able to kill at extended ranges, but the previous optics did not allow us, in some cases, to positively identify targets beyond 3,000 meters."

Crews with the 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., and the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., will begin new equipment training later this month and continue with training focused on an early 2013 rotation to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. Cross said his team is excited about the upcoming new equipment training and is looking forward to getting to learn more about their new vehicles.

"The addition of these systems to the 'Vanguard' nation and the 'Dragon' Battalion will make the Dagger Brigade the most lethal brigade in our Army," he said.

More M1A2 SEP V2 Abrams Tanks and M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles are scheduled to arrive at Fort Riley later this year to update the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team's fleet.



Abrams tanks wait to be unloaded from flatbed train cars March 28 at Fort Riley's railhead. The M1A2 SEP V2 tanks arrived at Fort Riley on March 27 and were delivered to the Soldiers with the 2nd HBCT on April 2. The new tanks are "refurbished zero-mile/zero-hour tanks" that contain system enhancements, including a new cooling system and fully digital operations. Tank crews with the 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt., and the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt., will begin training on them later this spring. More M1A2 SEP V2s are scheduled to arrive at Fort Riley later this year to update the 1st HBCT's tank fleet.



Testing the Limits

CAB Soldiers take center stage for Apache, Gray Eagle tests

By Mollie Miller | Duty First! Magazine

Two aviation platforms that have the potential to revolutionize the way the Army will address future global threats are flying high above the deserts of California this month thanks to the skills of more than 100 1st Infantry Division Soldiers.

Pilots and ground Soldiers from the division's Company C, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, are putting the capabilities of the new Apache Block III helicopter to the test in the skies above the National Training

Center as part of the aircraft's Initial Operations Testing and Experimentation. Meanwhile, Soldiers from the battalion's Company F are busy training at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., to do the same sort of testing on the Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System later this year.

"Our battalion is the only battalion in the Army going through this process for two Major Defense Acquisition Programs," said Lt. Col. Ed Vedder, commander of 1-1 ARB. "The 'Gunfighter' team is doing the flying the entire time."

Vedder said that, in light of today's increasingly fiscally restrained environment, Defense Department officials want to ensure they are getting exactly what they want from these two expensive systems and are counting on the Soldiers of the Big Red One to provide them the data they need to move forward in the acquisition process.

"The goals of these tests are to ensure that the aircraft meet all of the key performance parameters and capability requirements that the Army determined for the program," the



"Gunfighter" commander said. "Once the tests are complete, the results will be briefed to Army leadership and Department of Defense acquisition executives who will determine whether to go forward with a full rate production build for the (systems)."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Porter, the Gunfighter's senior warrant officer, said he and his fellow pilots will be flying a variety of missions during the testing of the Block III and average about 12 flight hours per week for the duration of the test.

"From deep attack and close combat attacks to unconventional mission sets, the testing is forcing us to find new ways to utilize the increased capabilities of the Block III," he said.

Porter said that initial testing has revealed to the Block III pilots an aircraft that is able to get to the fight quicker with more payload and provides the warfighter with better situational awareness.

"This is what every gun pilot has needed for years to increase the support to our ground brethren and win our nation's wars," he said.

Capt. Adam Marr, commander of Company C, 1-1 ARB, said his team is honored to be a part of the testing of the Block IIIs.

"What Charlie Company is part of, what the Gunfighters are part of, is validating this awesome new aircraft to not only fight the current war but to ensure that we are prepared to meet all future battlefield challenges," he said.

Apache Block III testing will continue through mid-April and Gray Eagle UAS testing will commence later this year and continue into the fall. 

SPC. THOMAS DAVIS, CAB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OPPOSITE PAGE: A crew chief with 1-1 ARB prepares to launch a Apache Block III helicopter during a training mission in California. More than 100 Soldiers from 1-1 ARB are calling California home for the next several weeks as they assist with the new aircraft's Initial Operations Testing and Experimentation. COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Pilots and crewchiefs from 1-1 ARB prepare for a day of training and testing on the Apache Block III; a crew chief with 1-1 ARB prepares to launch a Apache Block III helicopter during a training mission in California; a Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System sits on the runway at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Soldiers from Co. F, 1-1 ARB, will begin the UAS's Initial Operations Testing and Experimentation later this year.



Spc. Robert Patterson holds the guidon of the 1st Infantry Division's newest company, Company F, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade during a ceremony April 12 at Marshall Army Airfield on Fort Riley.

~ 1st Infantry Division activates new UAS company ~ **GOING GRAY**

A company of 1st Infantry Division Soldiers responsible for operating and maintaining an unmanned aerial system considered a "game-changer" downrange was officially activated April 12 at Fort Riley.

The guidon for Company F, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, was unfurled during a ceremony at Marshall Army Airfield. The Soldiers assigned to the new "Fenix" Company are the division's subject matter experts for one of the Army's newest UAS assets – the Gray Eagle.

"This is a major milestone in the modernization of the 1st CAB," Brigade Commander Col. Mike Morgan said. "The Gray Eagle is truly a formidable capability that we are fortunate to be able to put in place at the Big Red One."

The Gray Eagle is a medium-altitude long-endurance system designed to perform better at higher altitudes, sees better and listens better than its predecessors. New targeting systems and a new engine also allow the aircraft to fly longer and higher and carry more weight than many of the Army's previous unmanned systems.

During his remarks at the activation ceremony, Morgan celebrated the Gray Eagle's capabilities and noted that the system is a key part of the Army's modern full-spectrum combat aviation brigade.

"Our missions of today and tomorrow require overhead platforms that provide new, real-time intelligence, surveillance, security and targeting," Morgan said.

"Gray Eagle is a state-of-the-art platform that allows ground forces to move further faster and provides a picture for the commanders so they can make more informed decisions for maneuver and security."

Fenix Company is home to more than 120 Soldiers who represent more than 20 military occupational specialties. Considered "self-sustaining," the company can "pack up, deploy, unpack, launch, get the mission done and move again if necessary all the while fueling themselves, launching themselves, feeding themselves and taking care of the ground force."



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey Stokes, left, and 1st Sgt. Leon Black unfurl the unit flag for the 1st Infantry Division's Company F. Company F is the Army's newest unmanned aerial system company and the Soldiers assigned to "Fenix" Company will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Gray Eagle unmanned aerial system; a division level asset that provides reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition support to both ground and strategic commanders.

"We have the best Soldiers our Army can offer," Fenix Company 1st Sgt. Leon Black said. "Gray Eagle operators are the best of the UAS operators so we have the best guys and girls in the formation."

Now that the company is established at Fort Riley, the division's Gray Eagle Team will soon travel west to conduct the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation on the system. The

upcoming tests are the next step in the process to get the Gray Eagle fully integrated into the Army's aviation brigade formations.

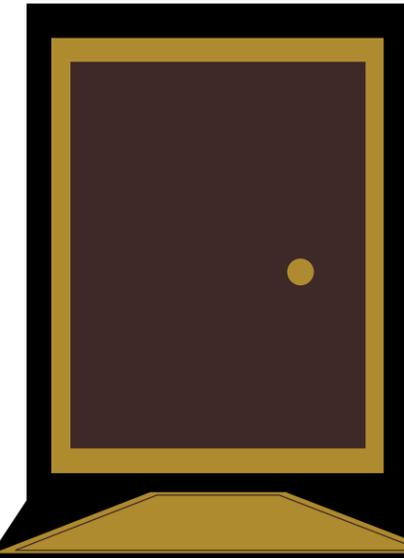
"We are going to field it, test it, be successful in doing both and take the Gray Eagles down range," Black said.

Morgan is confident the Gray Eagle UAS is the right platform to help the Army Aviation community continue to keep U.S. Soldiers safe and informed wherever their missions may take them in the future.

"America's sons and daughters deserve nothing less" than this great piece of equipment, he said. 



Finishing Touches



Quarters One offers snapshot of division, Fort Riley past

Story by Mollie Miller & Photos by Amanda Kim Stairrett,
Duty First! Magazine

FROM A SPOT ON THE BACK WALL OF THE MAIN DINING ROOM AT FORT RILEY'S QUARTERS ONE, WORLD WAR I ITALIAN FOOT SOLDIER CARLO AND HIS WIFE FRANCESCA GAZE STOICALLY UPON THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION'S FIRST FAMILY. ENCASED IN ANTIQUE WOODEN FRAMES, THE YOUNG COUPLE OBSERVES WITH COOL EYES THE OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS, PARTIES, FAMILY GATHERINGS AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS THAT, FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, HAVE HELPED DEFINE THE LIVES OF THE FIRST FAMILIES OF FORT RILEY. (next page →)

OPPOSITE PAGE: Shand Mayville, the 1st Infantry Division's first lady, compares photos taken over the years of her Fort Riley home, the historic Quarters One, on Feb. 7.



Shand Mayville reviews historic photos of Quarters One with Fort Riley's Cultural Historian Ed Hooker during a visit Feb. 7. Completed in 1888, Quarters One has been home to all of Fort Riley's commanding officers.

(continued from page 11)

For 123 years, the Quarters One walls on which the portraits of Carlo and Francesca now hang have absorbed the stories of all of Fort Riley's commanding officers and their families. The 18-inch thick limestone walls that make up the exterior of the home were completed in 1888 for a price of \$9,474.51. The 9,137 square foot home was built with entertaining in mind and features seven bathrooms, five fireplaces, a large dining room and sizeable reception area.

Dozens of Army families have called Quarters One home since Col. James Forsyth arrived in the late 1880s. As the families rotated in and out of the house, each left a piece of their story within the structure. Whether a gate installed to keep a general's toddler grandchildren from falling down the stairs or a chess piece embedded in the hardwood floor, Quarters One reveals the story of a very diverse Army family.

Tales of previous occupants and several unique discoveries recently led the house's current occupant and 1st Infantry Division first lady Shand Mayville to invite Fort Riley's historic architect Ed Hooker for a visit.

"I'm a huge history buff and so intrigued with the people who used to live here and the way Quarters One used to look," Mayville said.

During a Feb. 7 tour, Hooker explained that Quarters One has remained "relatively unchanged" since it was built although a few renovations have been made to accommodate "modern living." Air conditioning was added in 1939; a butler's pantry, including a pass through window into the dining room, was removed to create a larger kitchen; a wall that used to separate the main floor living area from a small library was removed to create a larger living space; and the wood burning fireplaces were replaced with gas fireplace inserts in the 1930s. Changes to the Quarters One exterior include the addition of two screened sleeping porches in 1923 and a garage in 1935 and the removal of



Quarters One, the home of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, is located at the top of the post's Forsyth Avenue on Main Post.

“I’m a huge history buff and so intrigued with the people who used to live here and the way Quarters One used to look.”

**— Shand Mayville,
1st Infantry Division first lady**

the home's original wooden porch in the 1950s.

Hooker pointed out several interesting aspects of the home including the original brass hardware on the doors, the pocket doors found throughout the main floor and the

main staircase banister that is painted white on the bottom to mimic marble. Fort Riley's cultural historian also spent much of the tour answering Mayville's questions and putting to rest old wives tales about the house—like that the

attic was once a ballroom.

"The attic was never a ballroom," Hooker said. "It was originally designed to be servants' quarters and two of the house's four servants lived up there."

(story on page 14)



“ I feel like I have really bonded with this house. This is a really great space. — Shand Mayville ”

LEFT: Shand Mayville listens to Ed Hooker describe aspects of her home, Quarters One, on Feb. 7. Quarters One has served as the residence of Fort Riley's top commanders for more than 100 years. The current occupants are Mayville and her husband, Maj. Gen. William Mayville, commander of the 1st Infantry Division. He is currently deployed to Afghanistan as head of the division-led Regional Command-East.



ABOVE: Shand Mayville points out the different chandeliers that light the main floor during a Feb. 7 visit from Ed Hooker. RIGHT: Shand Mayville points out features of her home that have changed over the years Feb. 7 at Fort Riley's historic Quarters One. The limestone house has been home to Fort Riley's first families for more than 100 years. Hooker told Mayville details about the home because she likes to give visitors history of the structure when they visit.



(continues from page 13)

The attic revelation came as somewhat of a surprise to Mayville who had shared the story of the ballroom with many visitors and had even adopted a dance themed decor in the room as a nod to the history of the space.

"I always thought it didn't seem right that ladies in big old fashioned dresses would climb all the way to the attic,"

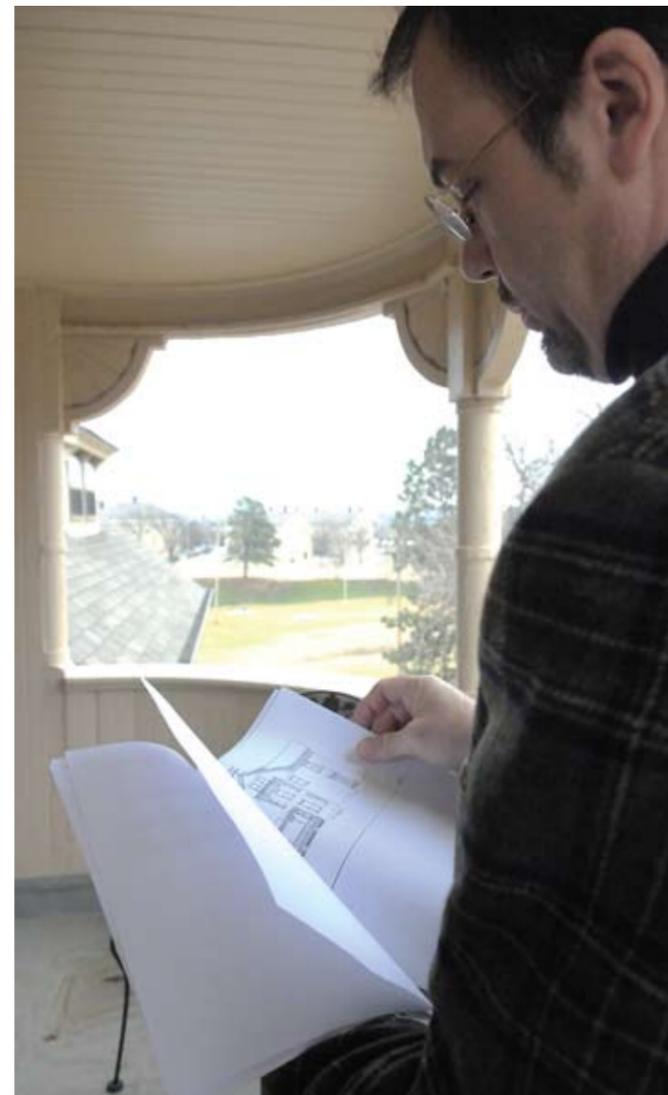
she said with a laugh.

Hooker also offered Mayville a new story about the home to share with future guests. The historian explained that the plans used in the construction of Quarters One and in several of the homes located throughout Historic Main Post became "stock plans" for the rest of the Army. The stock plans were then used to construct

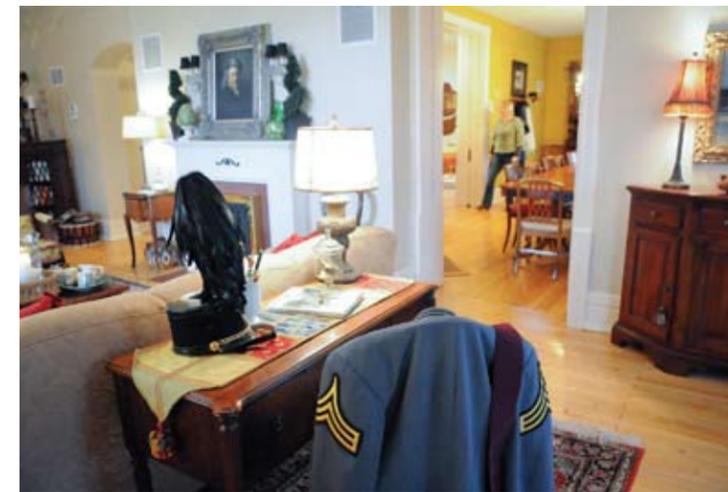
similar homes on installations throughout the country.

"It is interesting to go to installations like Fort Leavenworth or Fort Bragg where the houses are the same except they are rendered in different materials," Hooker said.

Mayville has begun offering an inside look into the home of the Big Red One's



ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Ed Hooker stands on the balcony Feb. 7 looking at original plans for Quarters One; the U.S. Military Academy at West Point uniform of Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Infantry Division commander, is displayed in Quarters One, his Family's historical Fort Riley residence Feb. 7; Shand Mayville follows Hooker down the stairs of Quarters One and past her family's photos. Completed in 1888, Quarters One has been home to all of Fort Riley's commanding officers for 123 years.



first family via a new Facebook page aptly named Quarters One. Mayville uses the page to share entertaining, cooking and decorating ideas appropriate for the Army family of the 21st Century. The division's first lady will also share Quarters One with a much wider audience beginning this spring when the new season of the television show Army Wives debuts

with a set inspired in part by Mayville's home and style.

"I feel like I have really bonded with this house," she said. "This is a really great space."

Spouses new to Fort Riley will have the opportunity to explore the beauty of Quarters One for themselves and hear more of Mayville's favorite stories in April during a newcomer's welcome at the

house. Now armed with a better understanding of the house's history and a tale or two about the Soldiers and Families who once lived there, the division's first lady is ready to offer visitors a window into the post's past.

"I feel like everything in this house tells a story and I'm excited to share the stories with the whole community," she said. ♣



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Spc. Nicolas Conway gets in a few final moments of cuddle time with son Kaleo, 9 months, before boarding a bus March 31 destined for a Northeast Kansas airport and the plane that would take Conway and his fellow Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers in Regional Command-East from the 1st Cavalry Division. The primary mission of the 1st Inf. Div. during the deployment is focused on giving Afghan forces the tools they need to secure their own country.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Soldiers assigned to the 1st Inf. Div's DHHB adjust their bags March 31 to ensure they will fit in overhead compartments during a flight to Afghanistan. The Soldiers departed the Flint Hills region in the early morning hours destined for their temporary homes in eastern Afghanistan.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Spc. Nicolas Conway steals one final kiss from his wife March 31 before saying goodbye to his family and boarding a bus destined for a Northeast Kansas airport.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

A Soldier's bear takes his spot in a formation of troops from DHHB, 1st Inf. Div., on April 10. The bear and his Soldier-owner were part of Main Body Four, the final main body flight of DHHB Soldiers to leave Fort Riley destined for a year in Afghanistan.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Torres gets one final kiss from his wife Elizabeth before boarding a bus to begin a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan April 10.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

LEFT TOP: A Soldier's spouse gets in one last "I love you" as her husband's bus pulls away April 10. LEFT BOTTOM: A tiny "Big Red One" Family member joins more than 200 Soldiers assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion on March 31, as the Soldiers begin their deployment to Afghanistan with an early morning formation in their company area. Dozens of Family members and friends said goodbye to the Big Red One Soldiers as they boarded busses destined for a Northeast Kansas airport and the plane that delivered them to their temporary homes in Eastern Afghanistan.



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

DEPLOYMENT



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Sgt. Steven Green says goodbye to his wife, Alyssa, and his son, Aiden, 5 weeks, during predeployment activities April 10.



Afghanistan ...



Maj. Gen. William Mayville and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Sasser, 1st Inf. Div. command team, furl the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters' colors during a casing ceremony March 7 at Fort Riley. Mayville and Sasser will lead the "Big Red One's" headquarters and DHHB to Afghanistan, where they will head up Regional Command-East.

AMANDA KIM STAIRRETT, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

By Stephanie Hoff | Duty First! Magazine
... bound

'Big Red One' cases colors in Fort Riley ceremony

A little more than a year after being unfurled following a deployment to Iraq, the colors of the 1st Infantry Division were again cased March 7 during a ceremony at Fort Riley's Cavalry Parade Field.

The ceremony symbolized one of the unit's final steps in preparation for its upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. The first of about 700 1st Inf. Div. staff members and Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion Soldiers slated to deploy are set to depart by the end of the month.

"I'm confident that our Soldiers are trained and ready to go. I'm confident in the organization. I think we got everything we need to accomplish the mission."

— Maj. Gen. William Mayville,
1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general

"We knew this (deployment) was coming, and we knew we had a certain amount of time to get ready," said Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general. "I'm confident that our Soldiers are trained and ready to go. I'm confident in the organization. I think we got everything we need to accomplish the mission."

(continued on page 21)



AMANDA KIM STAIRRETT, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

TOP: Soldiers with the 1st Bn., 5th FA Regt., 1st HBCT, fire their 105mm M101A1 Howitzers March 7 at Fort Riley. The Soldiers performed their duties as part of the salute battery at a colors-casing ceremony for the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters and DHHB. ABOVE: Soldiers, Family members and veterans with the 1st Inf. Div. render honors during the playing of the national anthem at the division casing ceremony March 7.



Maj. Gen. William C. Mayville Jr., commanding general of Combined Task Force-1 and the 1st Infantry Division, gives a speech at a transfer of authority ceremony April 19 on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

SGT. ROLAND HALE, RC-EAST PUBLIC AFFAIRS

IN COMMAND

'Big Red One' assumes mission in eastern Afghanistan

BY SGT. ROLAND HALE
RC-EAST PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN — THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, KNOWN FAMOUSLY AS THE "BIG RED ONE," TOOK CHARGE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN APRIL 19 IN A CEREMONY

ON BAGRAM AIRFIELD.

IN THE CEREMONY, THE DIVISION ASSUMED COMMAND AUTHORITY OF REGIONAL COMMAND-EAST FROM THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION. THE LATTER IS RETURNING TO FORT HOOD, TEXAS, AFTER A SUCCESSFUL YEAR-LONG TOUR HERE.

Operating as Combined Joint Task Force-1, the 1st Infantry Division will command and control operations throughout RC-East, an area roughly the size of Virginia including 14 provinces, 7.5 million Afghans and 450 km of a mountainous Pakistan border.

Building on the success of their predecessors, CJTF-1 will continue to work hand-in-hand with the Afghan government and Afghan National Security Forces to bring security, development and governance to the region.

Maj. Gen. William C. Mayville, Jr., commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and CJTF-1, gave a brief address during the ceremony.

"Our mission over the next year is to maintain the momentum of this campaign, relentlessly pursuing insurgent networks, assisting Afghan efforts to assert sovereignty along the border, and accelerating the development of the ANSF," said Mayville.

To tackle this mission, CJTF-1 wields a joint fighting force of more than 32,000 coalition troops. Their arsenal includes five U.S. brigade combat teams, as well as troops from nine NATO countries.

Perhaps the division's most important joint-endeavour, however, is its partnership with the ANSF.

"The Afghan security forces are growing and maturing at a rapid rate," said Mayville.

"Governance, combined with the growing security environment, has limited the Taliban's ability to exert their negative influence."

"Still, we know this is a tough fight. But it is a fight we will win due to our strong partnership with our Afghan security forces," he said.

In addition to its military partnership with the ANSF, Mayville's CJTF-1 team will work closely with civilian agencies to promote the possibility of long-term success in the region.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Olson, the coordinating director for development and economic affairs in Kabul, attended the ceremony and gave a brief interview about the future of the civilian-military partnership in RC-East.

"The model [civilian-military] integration here is unlike any we've seen before," said Olson.

"The military's strides in security, along with its joint work with [Provincial Reconstruction Teams], has given us the ability to focus on governance and development here," he said.

"We've contributed a lot Afghanistan in the last 10 years," said Olson. "Now the challenge is to make sure the Afghan people have the capacity to continue these successes and projects after 2014." ▀



AMANDA KIM STAIRRETT, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, speaks during a casing ceremony March 7 at Fort Riley, as Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Sasser, the division's senior NCO, keeps an eye on the troops before them at Cavalry Parade Field.

(continued from page 19)

While this will be the unit's first deployment to Afghanistan, it is the second time the 1st Inf. Div.'s headquarters will deploy as a modular headquarters, separate from the units it commands. The division's headquarters departed for a yearlong tour to Iraq in late 2009 without its subordinate brigades.

Upon arrival in Afghanistan, Soldiers will assume the role of a regional command headquarters in Eastern Afghanistan. The primary mission for the Soldiers will be to work with Afghan nationals and their security forces to enable them to take charge of their country and be in charge permanently, Mayville said. Transitioning Afghan nationals to full sovereignty will be on the forefront of the unit's tasks, the general added.

"We know we have a tough mission in front of us as we prepare to assume command of Regional Command-East," Mayville said. "But our Soldiers are trained, skilled, and they are themselves seasoned combat veterans. They are ready. We are ready."

The division's headquarters team will be joined by a few familiar faces later this spring, when the "Big Red One's" 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrives in Eastern Afghanistan. The "Dragon" Brigade is scheduled to serve under the division's headquarters for a nine-month deployment. ▀



“People will never care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

— Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil McCloud, senior NCO, “Durable” Brigade

‘Doors just opened’

Sustainment Brigade’s new senior NCO at home in Army

By Mollie Miller
1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs

A man who has called the Army his “home” for more than 25 years became the senior noncommissioned officer of the 1st Infantry Division’s Sustainment Brigade in early March.

Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil McCloud, who joined the National Guard in 1980 and came on active duty in 1985, became the “Durable” brigade’s top enlisted Soldier on March 13 when Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera assumed the role of the senior noncommissioned officer for the division’s rear detachment.

“The doors just opened up and this is great,” McCloud said.

A self-described Air Force brat, McCloud grew up all around the country and, if pressed, will say West Virginia is home. There is another “home,” however, that is really much closer to his heart.

“For me, the Army is my home,” he said. “I have been part of the military for all but four years of my life so this is my home.”

Like his father before him, McCloud has traveled all around the world during his career and spent time in Germany, Bosnia and throughout the United States.

McCloud is no stranger to Fort Riley. The Bradley mechanic served as a first sergeant in 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment from 1998–2001. During his time with 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., he deployed with Task Force 1-16 to Bosnia.

McCloud returned to Fort Riley in May 2011 to be the senior noncommissioned officer of the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion. That assignment marked his third battalion-



MOLLIE MILLER, DUTY FIRST! MAGAZINE

Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil McCloud (opposite page and above left) listens as the staff noncommissioned officers at the 1st Sustainment Brigade brief him on who they are and what their sections need during a meet-and-greet gathering March 20 at brigade headquarters. McCloud became the senior noncommissioned officer at the “Durable” Brigade March 13 when Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera assumed the role of senior noncommissioned officer for the 1st Infantry Division’s rear detachment.

level command sergeant major assignment. His new job at the Sustainment Brigade is McCloud’s first brigade-level command sergeant major job.

“I feel really good about what I am seeing here (at the Sustainment Brigade),” the command sergeant major said. “Going forward, we are going to stay focused on Soldiers, Soldier training and the basic care of our Soldiers.”

Caring for his Soldiers and ensuring his Durable team knows that he cares about each of them and their Families is a top priority for McCloud. The senior noncommissioned officer considers this part of his job so important that he carries a reminder of it in his pocket every day—a piece of notebook paper on which he scribbled “people will never

care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

“My Soldiers have to know that I care, their Families have to know that I care,” McCloud said.

The new Durable command sergeant major said his Soldiers can expect that day-to-day training and operations will continue as usual and will look very similar to the operations and training they saw while Rivera occupied the brigade’s top NCO spot.

“There is no sense in reinventing the wheel while it is rolling along,” McCloud said. “Command Sgt. Maj. Rivera did a fabulous job and I’m going to carry on with what he started and try and improve on it and leave my mark as well.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson speaks to fuelers with Task Force Nightmare at a Forward Arm and Refuel Point during their Joint Readiness Training Center rotation Nov. 6.

SGT. KEVEN PARRY, 1ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

reaching new **HEIGHTS**

Soldier who has been an integral part of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade since the unit stood up at Fort Riley six years ago has been selected to lead Army Aviation to even greater heights as the branch's new senior noncommissioned officer.

Story by Mollie Miller • Duty First! Magazine

Army Aviation Branch selects 1st CAB CSM for top position

Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson was chosen to succeed Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell as the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Aviation Branch. Thomson is the first "Big Red One" command sergeant major to be selected for the position.

"I think this is a great opportunity to make a big difference (in Army Aviation)," Thomson said last week. "After 25 years in the Army, all of it in aviation, I feel like I have a lot to contribute to the branch."

As the new USAACE/Aviation Branch command sergeant major, Thomson will be responsible for the approximately 70,000 Soldiers assigned to the branch. According to Glidewell, Thomson's primary focus will be "advising (Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield) on all enlisted matters and the daily training conducted at Fort Rucker, Ala., Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Fort Eustis, Va."

Thomson has gotten plenty of practice advising on all matters related to aviation training since arriving at Fort Riley May 20, 2006. One of the first dozen or so aviation Soldiers to come to the Flint Hills to prepare the post for the reintroduction of the 1st Inf. Div. aviation brigade, Thomson said the challenges were many in the days before the brigade officially uncased its colors.

"It was very challenging because facilities weren't ready for a CAB of our size, there wasn't a pool of people to pull from ... and barracks space wasn't really available so our Soldiers were moved around a lot," he said. "Eventually, though, it all came together."

Initially assigned as the command sergeant major of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Thomson assumed the brigade's senior enlisted spot on Sept. 4, 2009, following the CAB's 15 month deployment to Iraq. From his new spot at the brigade's headquarters, Thomson said he watched his aviation Soldiers step to the plate to prepare for another trip to Iraq

after having been home for just more than one year.

"We went out as one brigade to replace four," Thomson said of the CAB's 2010-11 deployment. "These young Soldiers just pulled it together and totally impressed and amazed me."

Although many things have happened during the past six years that have made Thomson very proud, it is the "Demon" Brigade Soldiers' professionalism and commitment to excellence that impresses him the most. It is the times when he has watched each of his Soldiers excel that he considers his "best BRO moments."

"What I have seen over these six years is a bunch of men and women who were sent here to do a very difficult mission and, every time they were asked, these young Soldiers came together and did things they wouldn't normally do," Thomson said. "They have been a privilege to watch."

Glidewell said there are many things that make Thomson a good choice to succeed him at Fort Rucker like a resume that includes recent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and a strong commitment to nurturing the Army family he shares with his wife Jennifer.

"The commanding general made the selection but, in my opinion, he couldn't have picked a better guy," he said. "(Thomson) possesses the insight and



After 25 years in the Army, all of it in aviation, I feel like I have a lot to

contribute to the branch."

— Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Experience and Aviation Branch

strategic vision we need to take the branch into the future."

Reflecting on the past six years he has spent with the 1st Inf. Div., Thomson he will always consider his time at Fort Riley one of the most rewarding assignments of his career.

"While I have a choice of patches to wear on my right shoulder, I think I will wear (the 1st Inf. Div.) patch the most often," he said. "I can't overstate how proud I have been to walk in the footsteps of my 'Big Red One brothers.'"

Thomson officially transferred his 1st CAB responsibilities to interim Command Sgt. Maj. Don Wright on Feb. 16 and assumed the duties of his new job during a ceremony March 27 at Fort Rucker. 🇺🇸



SGT. KEVEN PARRY, 1ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson attaches the streamer for the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the Combat Aviation Brigade guidon during his final formation with the brigade at Marshall Army Airfield on Feb. 16.

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LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIG **RED** ONE?

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